

Korea, and Guam, and of course right here at home, USO centers are visited more than 7 million times a year by servicemembers and their families. These USO centers allow traveling servicemembers and their families to have a place to enjoy some of the comforts of home, and they are an integral part of the USO's success.

Mr. Speaker, assisting our servicemembers and fighting for our veterans as Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and as Founding Co-Chair of the USO Congressional Caucus is my greatest honor serving in Congress. The men and women who put on the uniform choose a life of selflessness, putting their service to our Nation above all else. As a grateful Nation, we have a duty and responsibility to support them in any way possible, and there is no greater example of civilians coming together to show our recognition and support for our servicemembers than the USO. The USO keeps our brave men and women in uniform driving on, while adhering to that simple promise made by President Lincoln so many years ago: "To care for him who shall have borne the battle." My wife Vicki and I congratulate the USO on their 75th anniversary, and thank the dedicated volunteers and all those who work with the USO to help show our Nation's eternal gratitude to our servicemembers and their families "until everyone comes home."

IN HONOR OF PASTOR WILLIE E.
MANLEY

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor Willie E. Manley, a true leader and servant of the community of San Diego. Pastor Manley passed away on Friday, February 2, 2016, in his beloved city of San Diego.

Pastor Manley was born in 1933 in Stephens, Arkansas. In 1966, he left his congregation in chilly Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to conduct a revival in San Diego. On May 4, 1973, he started his pastoral duties at the Greater Life Baptist Church of San Diego, which he founded and served as pastor emeritus.

Pastor Manley was well known throughout the church and civic community for his honesty and integrity. Many residents in the San Diego community would call on him for answers and solutions. He was a man of great strength and courage. One who did not boast of himself, but rather, humbly gave his all to the people. Under his leadership, the Greater Life Baptist Church congregation has grown from forty-five to over three hundred members, giving many a safe place to come together and worship.

Pastor Manley was also a dedicated public servant and an incredibly active member of our community. He spent several years as a member of my staff when I was a Councilmember in the City of San Diego and as district staff to former Member of Congress, Randall Duke Cunningham.

Pastor Manley was a relentless champion for civil rights. He was the president and first

ever vice president of the San Diego branch of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). His commitment was recognized globally and he was honored, in 2003, with the very prestigious Ambassador of Peace Award. The award is given to an individual who has promoted goodwill among all peoples without respect to one's race, creed, color, religion, or national origin. Pastor Manley did not only promote these values at home but also traveled extensively across the country and around the world promoting spiritual and religious harmony.

Pastor Manley was an outstanding individual, husband, father, preacher and friend to many. He was considerate, genuine and devoted to making this world a better, more just place. His leadership is sure to leave a lasting legacy. He will be missed by his family—his wife and seven children, and his San Diego community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during four votes of the second series on February 3, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "No" on the amendment offered by Mr. ISSA to H.R. 1675, "No" on the amendment offered by Mrs. MALONEY to H.R. 1675, "No" on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions, and "Yes" on final passage of H.R. 1675, the Encouraging Employee Ownership Act of 2015.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was detained and unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on Roll Call Vote 61.

HONORING GREEK AMERICAN EDUCATORS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor three remarkable and distinguished members of the Greek Orthodox community in the Tampa Bay area. These three Greek American educators continually demonstrate excellence in transmitting the value of Hellenic education to the next generation of scholars, tying historic Hellenic values and culture to today's contemporary policy and cultural discussions in the United States. Together, these scholars promote and enhance the teaching of our incredible culture and affect a change that enhances Hellenism throughout the world.

The V. Rev. Fr. James Rousakis, Vicar for Western Florida, is a dear friend from Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Tarpon Springs, Florida, who demonstrates a tireless effort to preserve the Greek-American Orthodox values and instill the Hellenic culture to the next generation of Greek-Americans. He has served the Orthodox faithful in Rochester, New York; Atlanta, Georgia; Portland, Maine; Indianapolis, Indiana; Clearwater and now Tarpon Springs, Florida. With his boundless energy, Father James has helped to foster incredible growth in the membership and ministries at Holy Trinity.

The Honorable Steve Christopoulos is a remarkable educator and coordinator who continually puts forth a dynamic effort to organize almost a dozen charter schools in the Florida community. Born in Akovos, Greece, Christopoulos moved to the United States at the age of twelve and his family settled in Lynn, Massachusetts. After a rewarding career in commercial real estate, Christopoulos began his current leadership of Superior Schools, which operates numerous schools of choice throughout the Tampa area. His unwavering commitment to excellence sets him apart in the world of challenging and supportive educational environments. His dedication to Hellenic values and the superior learning environments he has created consistently produces outstanding citizens and Philhellenes.

Mrs. Catherine Diacogianni is a heralded educator who has contributed to our local Tampa Greek communities by teaching the Greek language and cultural history for over thirty years. After studying and working for the Red Cross in Athens early in her life, Diacogianni moved to Florida in 1977 and dedicated her life to teaching the Greek language to future generations as well as her peers. Despite a consistent tenure at Holy Trinity Greek School, Diacogianni also established the St. Stephanos Greek School in St. Petersburg where she worked tirelessly as teacher and director for 14 years. I am constantly in awe of Diacogianni's untiring efforts and passion to educate everyone she comes in contact with about the significance of Hellenic history and language so that it may live on in our community.

I commend the Federation of Hellenic American Educators and the Greek Teacher Association of Florida for highlighting these three pillars of our community, and I hope every American can learn from and emulate the determined efforts of these extraordinary educators.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call vote number 50 on Feb. 2, 2016, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NO.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on 2/3/2016. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

NO on Roll Call Number 58;
NO on Roll Call Number 59.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
KATHLEEN P. DEVINE**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to honor the life of a great journalist and public servant from the state of Connecticut, and life-long friend, Kathleen P. Devine, who passed away in Groton, Connecticut after a brief illness last week. Kathleen was known to all who had the privilege of meeting her as a deeply principled, hardworking, and positive public servant with a distinguished career in both finance and journalism.

Kathleen served as the Treasurer of the City of Hartford, Connecticut from 1998 to 2011, during which time she advocated fiercely for the city's employees and pensioners. Her tireless work ethic and grasp of financial markets translated into positive results for the City and its workforce. When she left office she left behind a distinguished career in public service which began with her role as Deputy Treasurer to Denise Nappier and staff member for State Treasurer Frank Borges.

Before her many years in office, Kathleen was a well-respected journalist and member of the Editorial Board of the Hartford Courant. There, she spoke up for underrepresented voices, particularly women and minorities, to ensure that their stories were told. She was a trailblazing woman in a field that at the time was mostly dominated by men. Her poise, determination, and grit left a decades-long impact on her colleagues. One Courant colleague, Susan Campbell, recently recalled Kathleen's role as a mentor during her first months as a journalist, noting her humor and down-to-earth personality. Kathleen always made a point to recognize people for the good work that they did, even when most in the newsroom would keep their head down in self-interest.

Kathleen was an incredible mentor, public servant, writer, advocate and friend. Her tenacity and sense of justice will certainly be missed in Connecticut and in the lives of her many friends and family. As I said, Kathleen was a lifelong friend as a result of the closeness of my family and the Palm family that went back to the 1950s. She never failed to remind me, and anyone else I was with at social and political gatherings, that she babysat for me, and as a result I better shape up as a state legislator and Congressman or she would embarrass me with stories of early years. I never doubted for a moment that she would and did my best to live up to her high standards.

Kathleen's passing is a real loss to the world—she was a bright spirit who could light up a room and make you laugh and think at the same time. What a rare gift it was to have known her. I ask all my colleagues to please join me in sending my sincere condolences to those who will feel this loss most deeply: her daughter, step-son, sister, brother, sister-in-law, nieces and nephews, and grandchildren.

HONORING RAUL R. RENDON

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Raul R. Rendon, a San Antonio resident who passed away on January 28 and whose life was marked by service to his nation. Born on September 14, 1928, Mr. Rendon served in the United States Marine Corps in the Korean War. On September 27, 1950, he was injured at Yudam-ni during the Chosin Reservoir Campaign. Mr. Rendon and his comrades in that battle were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, a decoration given to a unit that displays gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps in accomplishing its mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions as to set it apart from other units participating in the same campaign. He was also a Purple Heart recipient.

Mr. Rendon was preceded in death by his beloved wife Elvia, parents Romana and Trinidad, and sisters Alma Vergara and Freya Mirta Rendon Garcia. He is survived by his brother Trinidad, and his legacy lives on through his children—Raul Jr., Robert, and Rosanna—and his grandchildren—Mark, Elyse, Justin, and Gianna.

It is brave Americans like Mr. Rendon whose patriotism and selflessness make our nation great and keep us safe. While the San Antonio community mourns this loss, we draw strength from our memories of Mr. Rendon's courage and kind spirit.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE TRUST FUND ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, water infrastructure is a local issue—from a giant sinkhole in Gresham, OR, to poisoned water in Flint, MI. For too long, we've let critical water systems simply fall apart. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) gave our nation's wastewater and drinking water infrastructure a grade of "D" in their most recent report card. While our clean water needs are estimated to be nearly \$15 billion a year, appropriations for clean water infrastructure have averaged less than over \$2 billion a year since 2000. Drinking water infrastructure is in no better shape. The EPA estimates that we need to invest over \$19 billion annually to ensure the provision of safe tap water, while Congress appropriates less than \$1 billion.

As seen by the recent lead water crisis in Flint, MI, the costs of inaction are not just

numbers in a needs assessment. Our failure to adequately invest in aging infrastructure is having detrimental effects on our health and economy. Last year alone, Americans across the country suffered from more than 240,000 water main breaks and saw overflowing combined sewer systems—causing contamination, property damage, disruptions in the water supply, and massive traffic jams.

In order to address this, the Water Infrastructure Trust Fund Act will provide needed revenue for states and local governments to make overdue investments in wastewater and drinking water infrastructure and will also take a hard look at the systemic challenges affecting access to safe water in low-income populations.

The Water Infrastructure Trust Fund Act allows businesses to choose to place a small label on their products indicating their commitment to protecting America's clean water, contributing \$0.03 to the Water Infrastructure Trust Fund for each unit bearing the label. The Trust Fund revenue will be distributed to the states as grants and loans through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) to help public water systems finance wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects. The legislation also commissions an EPA study of the water affordability gap facing low-income populations and an analysis of solutions to systemic barriers affecting access to safe water systems.

Congress must do more, not only to meet the huge need for water infrastructure investments, but also to understand why failing infrastructure hits the most vulnerable communities the hardest.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING GARY FAULKNER, JR. FOR WINNING THE 2015 ROLLTECH PROFESSIONAL BOWLERS ASSOCIATION WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Gary Faulkner, Jr. of Memphis, Tennessee for winning the 2015 Rolltech Professional Bowlers Association World Championship at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nevada. In his first professional television appearance, Gary Faulkner beat top qualifier EJ Tackett to become the second African American ever to win a PBA Tour title in the PBA's 57-year history after George Branham III won the Brunswick Memorial World Open in 1986.

Gary learned the game of bowling at the early age of two when he bowled with his father, Pastor Gary Faulkner, Sr. of Cummings Street Baptist Church. As a sophomore at Germantown High School, Gary won the Division I Bowling Championship title in the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association individual bowling tournament. At that time, his best series bowling score was 833. While enrolled at Webber International University, Gary helped lead his team to the 2012 Intercollegiate Team Championship.

Gary Faulkner maintained his focus and determination to win the Rolltech Championship.